



Memorandum of Understanding



Between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT)

Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) agree that school buses are the safest means for transporting children to and from school, and

Whereas, it is a key objective of EPA to reduce the harmful emissions emanating from diesel-powered school buses; and

Whereas, NYAPT is a not-for-profit professional association dedicated to the safe and efficient transportation of school children to and from school each day; and

Whereas, both EPA and the NYAPT are committed to making school buses even safer and cleaner; and

Whereas, significant good can come from mutually beneficial and cooperative activities that would lead to clean fleets of school buses by the year 2010;

The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New York Association for Pupil Transportation do understand and agree as follows:

NYAPT will undertake a voluntary initiative in New York State to advance the principles of clean school buses. The activities conducted by NYAPT and supported by EPA will lead to measurable decreases in diesel emissions through the following objectives:

• Reducing School Bus Idling • Retrofitting and Repowering School Buses • Replacing Older School Buses

The parties agree that they will engage cooperatively in the following activities and will promote these efforts as well as report on their progress and attainment.

For its part, NYAPT will undertake the following:

Reducing School Bus Idling

- Advance and adopt anti-idling resolutions in at least one-third of the school districts in the state by June 2004;
- Advocate for adoption of school board resolutions to reduce unnecessary idling in school districts located in air quality non-attainment or higher risk areas;
- Establish statewide goals for reductions in unnecessary idling times by at least 50% from current levels by 2005;
- Develop and conduct training courses for drivers and mechanics related to idling and best practices to reduce idling;
- Develop and provide tools for school district transportation professionals to review school bus routing, parking and loading practices to reduce idling and the exposure of children and staff to diesel exhaust fumes;
- Develop and disseminate information for parents and child-centered organizations on the Association's voluntary emissions reduction program in New York State.

Retrofitting and Repowering School Buses

- Promote school bus retrofits at a rate of 5,000 school buses per year through 2006, particularly in urban and suburban school districts and districts with poor air quality;
- Develop and conduct training courses for mechanics and drivers related to emissions controls technology and maintenance;
- Advocate for enriching school aid formulas to support retrofit activities and for incremental costs of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel;
- Establish a Practitioner's Panel on School Bus Retrofitting to monitor progress, navigate issues, and develop technical assistance capacity for operators;
- Develop promotional materials for use with related statewide education organizations on the benefits of retrofitting school buses;
- Collaborate with the State Office of General Services to develop specifications and contracts for retrofit equipment for diesel school buses;
- Present workshops, newsletter articles and web-site information related to retrofitting technology and practice.

Replacement of Older School Buses

- Recommend legislation to define specifications for next generation of "clean" school buses in New York State
- Provide timely information to NYAPT membership on federal air quality requirements related to emissions and fuels, and the benefits of accelerated school bus replacement;
- Develop a professional development program for school transportation officials on effective school bus replacement strategies and financing;
- Pursue state legislation to enrich school aid in support of accelerated purchases of school buses with clean diesel technology systems;
- Collaborate with the State Office of General Services on refining school bus specifications reflective of new diesel emissions standards.

For its part, EPA will undertake the following:

Reducing School Bus Idling

- Provide access for NYAPT to training resources and related materials aimed at informing and orienting school bus drivers on the need to reduce idling;
- Develop and provide tools for school district transportation professionals to review school bus routing, parking and loading practices to reduce idling and the exposure of children and staff to diesel exhaust fumes;
- Develop promotional materials for use with related statewide education organizations on the benefits of reducing the idling time of school buses;
- Present workshops, newsletter articles and web-site information related to anti-idling strategies and practice;
- Publicly recognize, via press releases and at media events, school districts that successfully implement an anti-idling program.

Retrofitting and Repowering of School Buses

- Establish objectives for school bus retrofit completions, particularly in low-income communities and communities with high rates of asthma;
- Develop promotional materials for use with related statewide education organizations on the benefits of retrofitting school buses;
- Present workshops, newsletter articles and web-site information related to retrofitting technology and practice;
- Promote and coordinate communication between NYAPT and appropriate partners to ensure that the retrofit devices work with the engines and do not violate engine warranties;
- Assist in bringing necessary cleaner ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel supplies to strategic areas of New York State;
- Identify available funding to support New York State School Bus Operators in retrofitting efforts;
- Assist in arranging meetings/presentations between districts and agencies that have retrofitted buses and school districts in New York contemplating retrofits.
- Publicly recognize, via press releases and at media events, school districts that successfully retrofit buses.

Replacement of Older School Buses

- Identify available funding to support New York State School Bus Operators in accelerated school bus replacement efforts;
- Develop promotional materials for use with related statewide education organizations on the benefits of replacing older school buses;
- Present workshops, newsletter articles and web-site information related to bus replacement technology and practices, including how to choose the best new buses;
- Provide timely information to NYAPT membership on federal air quality requirements related to emissions and fuels, and the benefits of accelerated school bus replacement;
- Publicly recognize, via press releases and at media events, school districts that successfully replace older buses with the cleanest buses possible.

M. Scott Goble
President, New York Association for Pupil Transportation
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Jane M. Kenny
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